

City of Corunna
Regular Council Meeting
Monday, March 21, 2005

Present: Johnson, Mehigh, Runyan, Sanderson, Spring, Wagner.

Absent: Corey (excused).

Guests: Joe Sawyer, City Manager; Merilee Lawson, Assessor/Planner; Judy Horton; Janet Washburn, Parks & Recreation Director; Chief Mark Hetfield, Police Department; Shirley Sanderson; Helen Granger, The Independent; Sgt. Kevin Clark, Police Department; Gary Arnold, Capital Consultants; Cheryl Warren, The Argus Press; Todd Follen; Jerry Walden; and other concerned citizens.

The meeting was called to order in the City Council Chambers by Mayor Pro-Tem Runyan at 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS REGULAR MEETING: Johnson moved, Wagner seconded to accept the previous regular meeting minutes dated March 7, 2005 as presented.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Wagner, Johnson, Sanderson, Runyan, Spring, Mehigh.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

AGENDA APPROVAL: Johnson moved, Wagner seconded to approve the agenda as presented with the addition of Item No. 4) Consider Appointment of Barb Schooley to the Ambulance Board as Member-at-Large.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Spring, Runyan, Mehigh, Wagner, Johnson, Sanderson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

APPROVAL OF VENDOR DISBURSEMENTS: Wagner moved, Johnson seconded to approve the vendor disbursements as presented.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Runyan, Wagner, Spring, Sanderson, Mehigh, Johnson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Gary Arnold from Capital Consultants gave an update to the sewer lining project. He advised another public notice has to be published that has to do with environmental clearance because some of the sewers are located in the flood plain. A notice of intent to work in the flood plain has to be published and a finding of no significant impact on the flood plain has to be published. He further advised once the public notice is published, the city has to wait 15 days for public comment and then a final notice of intent to release funds can be published to get grant monies. After this is done, the environmental record will be complete, which he will provide to the city so any citizen who is interested in the environmental review can get access to it. Mr. Sawyer asked if

any endangered species were found. Mr. Arnold advised no. Mr. Sawyer asked if there was a timeline on when the project would be sent out for bids. Mr. Arnold advised mid-May to early June. Mr. Sawyer asked when the construction would begin. Mr. Arnold advised construction would probably start in July and run into the fall. Mr. Arnold brought the council up-to-date on the pump station project. The grant application is due April 22 and he is just starting to work on the grant but another public hearing would probably be held the first week of April for the Ferry Street pump station reconstruction and construction of the first three sewer segments across the river.

7:15 P.M. PUBLIC HEARING FOR RECEIVING PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A BOAT LAUNCH FACILITY: Johnson moved, Mehig seconded to leave the regular session and go into a public hearing to receive public comments on the proposed Community Development Block Grant for the construction of a boat launch facility.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Sanderson, Mehig, Johnson, Spring, Wagner, Runyan.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 7:15 p.m.

Mr. Arnold explained the purpose of the public hearing was to solicit input from the public and the council. The grant application the city will be filing with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation is for the construction of a boat launch facility located on the north end of Brady Street. He further explained the construction application is a coordinated effort with Dux Boats, which needs an area to test their boats. The projected cost is about \$200,000 and \$180,000 of that money will come from the State of Michigan as a grant. Dux Boats is committed to creating about 35 jobs and 51 percent of those jobs will go to low or moderate-income individuals and the anticipated starting wage will be \$7.00 per hour. He also explained if the city receives the grant, construction should be completed by fall. Councilperson Mehig asked what kind of surface would be put in for the boat launch. Mr. Arnold advised the street surface would be blacktop and the ramp surface would be made of pre-cast concrete planks. Councilperson Sanderson asked who would be responsible for ice damage to the structure. Mr. Arnold advised it would be the city's responsibility but his company has built 20 of these structures for the Michigan state parks and there has not been any ice damage. Mr. Sawyer asked if the dock system was retractable. Mr. Arnold advised yes. Mayor Pro-Tem Runyan asked if the decorative lighting would be waterproof. Mr. Arnold advised yes. Councilperson Spring stated he has never seen a retractable dock with cement planks and asked if there was one of those docks close by so he could see what it looked like. Mr. Arnold advised the ramp itself is pre-cast concrete that is set into the ground and the skid pier is put in and taken out during the season. Councilperson Spring asked if there was a ramp and pier close by this area. Mr. Arnold advised a boat launch was put in on the north side of Lake Lansing in Ingham County two years ago. Marl Lake, which is south of South Higgins Lake State Park, has three of the boat launches. Chief Mark Hetfield asked if a restroom would be put in that area. Mr. Arnold advised no. Janet Washburn advised she thought port-a-johns would be a better way to go because they are clean and they would be cleaned out twice a week.

Todd Follen, 540 N. Brady Street, stated there has been a lot of ongoing discussion about the dam and asked if the dam issue had been resolved because he thought the city should

decide what it is going to do with that before money is spent on a boat launch. Brady Street needs to have work done to it because the street is getting worse and nothing has been done to the street since October 1969. He also stated there use to be an old dump in the area where the trees are located and it would be hard to say what would be found when people start digging there. Mayor Pro-Tem advised there use to be a ditch in the area that was a nice dumping place for everyone. Councilperson Mehigh advised the dam has been kicked around for quite awhile and 90 percent of the people in town want to keep the dam but it will cost \$750,000 to fix it, there are no grants available and there is no way the city can come up with that kind of money. He further advised the council looked at a step process dam in Saginaw County, which would look great in Corunna but the city does not have that kind of money. Until grant money is available, he does not see the dam being fixed in the near future. Mr. Follen stated he has noticed the dam is washing out along the sides and asked if there was anyway this could be stopped. Councilperson Mehigh stated the city knows there is a problem and the city could put a couple loads of concrete on the ends and do a little patchwork in the middle, which might last for 20 to 30 years, but the state will not let the city do that. Mr. Sawyer stated the city has a short list of streets that need work and he is hopeful that some of these streets can be resurfaced. He hopes something can be done to Brady Street in conjunction with the opening of the boat launch. Ms. Lawson stated at one time, there was money available for dam removal but not for repairing dams but that money is long gone. Mr. Follen stated one of the reasons the boaters do not stay long is they cannot go that far on the river. The boaters can go to the dam, turn around and go down to the tile plant. He asked if U.S. Brick could be asked to dig out the river by their location because the water depth in that area is only knee deep. Mayor Pro-Tem Runyan stated Mr. Follen brought up a good point that there is only a certain size boat that can go on the river. Mehigh moved, Johnson seconded to leave the public hearing and return to regular session. Mr. Sawyer advised written comments about this project would still be accepted until March 24, 2005.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Mehigh, Spring, Runyan, Johnson, Sanderson, Wagner.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 7:38 p.m.

Johnson moved, Mehigh seconded to accept the following CDBG Authorization Resolution for the Brady Street Boat Launch:

CITY OF CORUNNA
(Shiawassee County, Michigan)

CDBG AUTHORIZATION RESOLUTION
BRADY STREET BOAT LAUNCH

WHEREAS, the City of Corunna has made application to the Michigan Economic Development Corporation requesting an Economic Development Infrastructure Project Grant in the amount of \$180,000 for construction of the Brady Street Boat Launch and Facility plan, herein after referred to as "the Project", and

WHEREAS, the City of Corunna will provide a matching contribution of \$20,000 to fund the proposed project,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Project is consistent with the City's Community Development Plan Described in the CDBG Application.
2. The Project will enable the City to provide more efficient and better quality public services to City residents, at least fifty-one percent of who are low and moderate income.
3. No project costs (CDBG and non-CDBG) will be incurred prior to the formal Grant award, completion of the environmental review procedures and receipt of formal written authorization from the MEDC to incur costs.
4. The City of Corunna is authorized to submit the Michigan CDBG application and further appoints Joe Sawyer, Corunna City Manager as the authorized person to execute the Application and related grant form on behalf of the City of Corunna.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the City of Corunna, Shiawassee County, Michigan, by its City Council, has caused this Resolution to be enacted this date.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Runyan, Wagner, Spring, Sanderson, Mehigh, Johnson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER APPROVAL OF AMBULANCE SERVICE AGREEMENT: Wagner moved, Johnson seconded to accept the Ambulance Service Agreement as presented.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Johnson, Sanderson, Wagner, Mehigh, Runyan, Spring.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER RESIGNATION OF MICHAEL MCMILLAN FROM THE CEMETERY BOARD:

Councilperson Johnson stated it was her understanding that Mr. McMillan could not attend meetings because the time was moved to a time he could not attend. The city is begging people to serve on commissions because we want their help but the city cannot help a person out with a meeting time that will keep this person on the Cemetery Board. Mr. Sawyer advised Mr. McMillan came in to let him know he would be resigning but he had not seen the letter that was sent to Mr. McMillan from the chairman. Mr. Sawyer further advised he asked Mr. McMillan if he would reconsider leaving if a meeting was scheduled to look at a better time to hold the meeting but Mr. McMillan told him no because he made his decision to leave. Councilperson Johnson advised she did not blame him. Mr. Sawyer also advised he made an attempt to have Mr. McMillan to reconsider his decision to leave. Councilperson Johnson stated she appreciated Mr. Sawyer's attempt but she could understand Mr. McMillan's reasoning. Councilperson Mehigh stated he thought the Cemetery Board should have tried to work something out with Mr. McMillan before a letter was sent because he thought that was pretty callous. Councilperson Johnson agreed. Mr. Sawyer advised it was his understanding Dave Hilliker is likely to resign as well.

Councilperson Spring asked if Mr. Hilliker was resigning because of the time switch. Mr. Sawyer advised he did not know if the reason was the time switch or the weather. Councilperson Spring asked what the purpose for the time switch was. Mr. Sawyer advised he was not sure when the time switch took place. The Cemetery Board and Forest Management Commission went years and years without regular meetings. Yvonne Long advised the Cemetery Board held meetings when they were necessary or needed. Mr. Sawyer stated there is a real effort to have a monthly meeting and thought Bill Lulham was the driving force. Councilperson Johnson asked Mr. Sawyer to find out why the time was changed. Mr. Sawyer stated he advised Mr. McMillan that he would be more than happy to have a meeting and poll the members to see when they could meet because as far as he is concerned it is the members that decide when the meeting is to be held. Councilperson Spring advised what Councilperson Johnson stated made perfect sense because it is ridiculous to have a meeting anytime before five o'clock unless the city is expecting third shift or retired people to be on a board or commission. If the Forest Management Commission met before seven o'clock, he would not be on that board because he works. Mayor Pro-Tem Runyan stated this item could be tabled until the next council meeting for more resources. Councilperson Johnson stated Mr. McMillan has already told Mr. Sawyer that he does not want to be on the commission. Councilperson Spring asked if anyone has spoken to Mr. Hilliker about whether or not he would stay on the Cemetery Board. Mr. Sawyer advised no. He spoke to Mr. Crawford and Mr. Hilliker advised him that he would not be interested if there was a time change. Councilperson Spring stated he does not want to lose another person. Councilperson Johnson stated she does not want to lose another person either. Councilperson Mehig stated it only makes sense that the board members would discuss the meeting time amongst themselves to come up with a satisfactory time for everybody. Johnson moved, Wagner seconded to accept the resignation of Michael McMillan from the Cemetery Board with regret. Councilperson Spring asked if this was something that would be resolved by the next council meeting. Mr. Sawyer advised he would give the council an update at the next meeting. He further advised he called Bill Lulham soon after Mr. McMillan came in and told him Mr. McMillan was unhappy about the letter he received and it was Mr. Lulham's position that he wants the Cemetery Board meetings at three o'clock and if the board wants to change the time, they should show up to a meeting and vote to change it, which is not the most tactful way to do something but it could be argued that it was equally as rude for people not to show up without letting anyone know that a person could not meet at that time. Councilperson Mehig asked if it would be advantageous for Mr. Sawyer or the council to write a letter to the boards and committees stating before any time changes are made that every effort should be made to make sure the time change is feasible for everybody. Mr. Sawyer advised he would find out when the time change took place. Councilperson Mehig stated he would like to see a letter sent to all of the committees because he did not think it was fair to change a meeting time without everyone's approval. Mayor Pro-Tem Runyan stated when he was on the Cemetery Board and there was a meeting, he might get a call that morning but now there is a regular meeting and a notice is sent out a week prior to when the meeting will be held. Councilperson Mehig stated a change in the meeting day and time should be discussed by the entire board or committee before it is changed and he thought the council or Mr. Sawyer should send a general letter to everybody. Mr. Sawyer advised a four or four-thirty meeting would work for most people as opposed to a three o'clock meeting. Councilperson Spring stated if the Cemetery Board meeting is set for three o'clock and he

has a Monday through Friday eight to five job, he would not have a chance to get on that board so the city is limiting the people that can get on its boards.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Wagner, Johnson, Sanderson, Runyan, Spring, Mehigh.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF BARBARA SCHOOLEY TO THE AMBULANCE BOARD

AS MEMBER-AT-LARGE: Johnson moved, Sanderson seconded to appoint Barbara Schooley to the Ambulance Board as Member-at-Large to serve at the pleasure of the council for an indefinite term.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Spring, Runyan, Mehigh, Wagner, Johnson, Sanderson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: Councilperson Mehigh congratulated Ms. Lawson and Mr.

Sawyer on their presentation today at the county commissioner's meeting. A tremendous amount of work went into the parking design and he thought the county commissioners were impressed.

Councilperson Spring updated the council on the SATA situation. Prior to Mayor Corey going on vacation, he was asked to review the SATA budget. Councilperson Spring advised he was on his third email and each email is about four pages long in reference to questions about the SATA budget. It is rather confusing and he plans to make a presentation but not until he has all of his questions answered.

Councilperson Sanderson stated he was approached two weeks ago by a person about the yard at the corner of Comstock Street and State Street that has junk piled in the yard. A trash bin has been moved there but he noticed toys were piled in it. He further stated there is garbage laying all over the yard by the garage and the burning barrel has rotted out at the bottom. The city has a code enforcement officer who should be taking care of this problem to make sure it is being done properly. He also stated he wonders what people think when they drive by and see yards looking like this because it is an insult to the City of Corunna. He asked if there was anyway to get someone to go there to make the people finish the job because it is unhealthy to have open fruit and soup cans and other trash lying around. Mr. Sawyer advised he was aware of the situation and this is a rental house so a letter was sent to the landlord approximately two or three weeks ago and a dumpster was delivered, which was filled very quickly. He further advised another letter will be sent to the landlord stating the property is still not cleaned up. The landlord responded to the first letter so it is hard for the city to do anything more other than send the landlord another letter telling them the situation is not resolved and to keep going.

Mayor Pro-Tem Runyan thanked Mr. Sawyer and Ms. Lawson and everybody involved with the downtown development project. He also thanked Councilpersons Mehigh and Sanderson and the rest of the ambulance board for working together to come up with a contract.

ADJOURN: Mehigh moved, Sanderson seconded to adjourn.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Sanderson, Mehigh, Johnson, Spring, Wagner, Runyan.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 8:00 p.m.

LARRY RUNYAN, MAYOR PRO-TEM

YVONNE F. LONG, CITY CLERK